Message Text

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OES/ENP/EN: H SPEILMAN EUR/RPM: J KORNBLUM

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IO/IEP: L KAHN

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, ECE, SENV, XH, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET APPROACH ON HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 5620 (B) STATE 79059

1. DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH EMBASSY MOSCOW THAT GENEVA CONFIDENTIAL

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SHOULD REMAIN FORUM FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS ON BREZHNEV PROPOSALS. REF B OUTLINES, FOR YOUR INFORMATION, CURRENT U.S. VIEWS.

2. WE ALSO FULLY CONCUR THAT EMBASSY SHOULD TAKE NO INITIATIVE TO DISCUSS WITH SOVIETS. IF CALLED IN, HOWEVER, YOU CAN MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. U.S. HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN READY TO EXAMINE OBJECTIVELY TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION AT A HIGH LEVEL MEETING (HLM) ON ENVIRONMENT.

- B. DISCUSSIONS SO FAR IN GENEVA HAVE BEEN USEFUL. OF THE FIVE TOPICS IDENTIFIED BY ECE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY STANOVNIK AS HOLDING PROMISE, ONE MIGHT MEET THE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED AT LAST YEAR'S PLENARY: TRANS-BOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION. NO OTHER TOPIC FULLY MEETS THE NECESSARY REQUIREMENTS.
- C. THE ECE AND STANOVNIK HAVE OUR COMPLETE
 CONFIDENCE. WE SEE NO NEED FOR A HLM TO GIVE A POLITICAL
 PUSH TO ANY TOPIC. RATHER, A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING COULD
 ONLY BE THE RESULT OF CAREFUL PREPARATION, AND USEFUL
 TO TAKE FINAL DECISIONS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE. ANY SUCH
 MEETING WOULD THUS BE THE CULMINATION OF THE PREPARATION
 PROCESS.

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- D. ANY DECISION IN PRINCIPLE AT THE UPCOMING PLENARY TO HOLD A MEETING WOULD HAVE TO BE REVIEWED IN 1979, TO INSURE THAT PREPARATIONS HAVE ADVANCED TO A MEANINGFUL STAGE.
- E. THE FACILITIES IN GENEVA FOR ANY POSSIBLE MEETING CONFIDENTIAL

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ARE EXCELLENT, AND IT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE EASIER ON THE TIGHT U.N. BUDGET NOT TO MOVE STANOVNIK AND HIS STAFF. THE U.S. FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT ANY MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN GENEVA.

- F. THE U.S. LOOKS FORWARD TO DISCUSSION IN ANY FURTHER DETAIL IN GENEVA AS THE PLENARY APPROACHES.
- 3. DEPARTMENT REPEATING REF A TO ADDRESSEES WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED IT. COOPER

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